

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 038206
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:TH
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NSC:WQUANDT
PM:RERICSON
P:PCHABIB
NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
H:BATWOOD
S/S-O:JTHYDEN

-----009448 140435Z /61

O 140406Z PEB 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 038206

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, EG, IS, SA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON AIRCRAFT SALES

1. THE SECRETARY WILL ANNOUNCE AT 1:15 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 14 THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO APPROVE SALES OF CERTAIN AIRCRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND ISRAEL, SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. YOU SHOULD FURNISH TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT (BEING SENT SEPTTEL) TO THE SAUDIS AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, NOTING THAT WE WISHED THEM TO HAVE IT BEFORE IT WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 038206

2. IN CONVEYING TEXT OF STATEMENT, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL OF THE FULL SAUDI REQUEST FOR 60 F-15S REFLECTS THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA'S LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS AND ITS APPRECIATION OF SAUDI ARABIA'S CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE IN ASSURING FUTURE STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT WILL ATTEST TO THE PRESIDENT'S BELIEF THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO A COURSE OF FUNDAMENTAL COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED

STATES WILL CONTRIBUTE MOST IMPORTANTLY BOTH TO MAJOR REGIONAL OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING NEGOTIATION OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA, AND TO A CONSTRUCTIVE COURSE IN

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS WHICH THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS.

-- WE ARE AWARE THAT SAG WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE UNITED STATES TOTALLY DISSOCIATE ITS PROPOSAL TO SELL F-15S TO SAUDI ARABIA FROM ANY PROPOSAL TO SELL AIRCRAFT TO ISRAEL. WE FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO, HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE NEED TO CONSIDER THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF THESE MAJOR AIRCRAFT SALES ON OUR GLOBAL ARMS TRANSFER CEILING. WE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECT WHICH THE PROPOSED SALES OF COSTLY AIRCRAFT TO ISRAEL AND EGYPT AS WELL AS SAUDI ARABIA WOULD HAVE ON OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER PRIORITY SALES REQUIREMENTS WORLDWIDE.

-- ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON FOR CONSIDERING AT ONE TIME THE PROPOSED AIRCRAFT SALES TO ALL THREE COUNTRIES IS THAT THEY ARE WIDELY PERCEIVED AS BEING INTERRELATED AND AS SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 038206

HAVING RELEVANCE TO THE QUESTION OF SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ALSO, THE CONGRESS QUITE RIGHTLY WANTS TO KNOW TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THE TOTALITY OF WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AREA WHEN WE PROPOSE A MAJOR SALE TO ANY COUNTRY IN THE REGION. WE MUST ASK OUR SAUDI FRIENDS TO LET US BE THE JUDGE OF HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH THESE SALES IN OUR OWN POLITICAL PROCESS.

-- WITH REGARD TO THE ABOVE POINT, AS SAG IS AWARE, WE ANTICIPATE SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED SALE OF F-15S TO SAUDI ARABIA AS CONSTITUTING A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL. WE WILL OF COURSE BE EMPHASIZING SAUDI ARABIA'S CONCERN OVER THE NEED TO PROVIDE FOR A REASONABLE AIR DEFENSE OF ITS OWN TERRITORY. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE DEFENSIVE NATURE OF THE PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT OF F-15S TO SAUDI ARABIA BE STRESSED AS WELL ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS BY THE SAG.

-- AS THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL NOTE, CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OF THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION WILL BE SIGNED OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. IN THE CAUSE OF SAUDI ARABIA, WE ANTICIPATE SEPARATE LETTERS OF OFFER AND AGREEMENT (LOAS) COVERING 20 AIRFRAMES EACH IN FY 78, FY 79 AND FY 80- THE PURPOSE OF SEPARATING THE LOAS OUT OVER MORE THAN THE CURRENT YEAR IS TO ENABLE THE ADMINISTRATION TO MANAGE THE OVERALL ARMS TRANSFER CEILING IN SUCH A WAY AS TO LEAVE ROOM FOR OTHER MAJOR PRIORITY SALES. THIS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT AFFECT THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR DELIVERY OF THE F-15S

TO SAUDI ARABIA. WE CURRENTLY ANTICIPATE THAT THE FIRST
PLANES WILL COME OFF THE PRODUCTION LINE IN THE THIRD
QUARTER OF 1981 AND THAT DELIVERIES WILL CONTINUE

THEY ARE COMPLETED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1984.

-- AS THE PRESIDENT HAS STATED BEFORE, THE ADMINISTRATION
SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 038206

WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT THE F-15 SALE GOES
THROUGH. WE WILL NEED THE BEST SUPPORTIVE EFFORT OF ALL
OUR FRIENDS, AND OF SAUDI ARABIA ITSELF, WHILE THE PRO-
POSAL IS BEFORE THE CONGRESS.

-- WE HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR WEST TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON
IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO HELP US IN OUR EFFORTS IN THE
CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER.

-- WITH RESPECT TO THE SALE TO ISRAEL, THIS IS IN PART IN
FULFILLMENT OF A COMMITMENT MADE OVER TWO YEARS AGO TO
PROVIDE F-16S TO ISRAEL. IT FALLS SHORT OF ISRAEL'S
REQUEST, BUT WE FELT FURTHER DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THIS
LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT COULD ONLY DIVERT ATTENTION FROM
AND UNDERMINE THE MAJOR EFFORT AHEAD IN THE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE SAG'
REFRAINING FROM ANY PUBLIC COMMENT PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT HERE. VANCE

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 038206
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY PM:WMONROE

APPROVED BY S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER

PM:RAERICSON, JR., ACTING

-----047786 161825Z /50

R 161750Z FEB 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

S E C R E T STATE 038206

NODIS

FOR PM DIRECTOR GELB ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 38206 ACTION JIDDA RIYADH INFO
WHITE HOUSE FEB 14.

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 038206

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, EG, IS, SA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON AIRCRAFT SALES

1. THE SECRETARY WILL ANNOUNCE AT 1:15 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 14
THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO APPROVE SALES OF CERTAIN AIR-
CRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND ISRAEL, SUBJECT TO THE
USUAL CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. YOU SHOULD FURNISH TEXT OF
THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT (BEING SENT SEPTTEL) TO THE
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 038206

SAUDIS AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, NOTING THAT WE WISHED THEM
TO HAVE IT BEFORE IT WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

2. IN CONVEYING TEXT OF STATEMENT, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL OF THE FULL SAUDI REQUEST FOR
60 F-15S REFLECTS THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO SAUDI
ARABIA'S LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS AND ITS APPRECIATION OF
SAUDI ARABIA'S CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE IN ASSURING FUTURE
STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT WILL ATTEST TO THE
PRESIDENT'S BELIEF THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT
TO A COURSE OF FUNDAMENTAL COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED
STATES WILL CONTRIBUTE MOST IMPORTANTLY BOTH TO MAJOR
REGIONAL OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING NEGOTIATION OF A JUST AND
LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA, AND TO A CONSTRUCTIVE COURSE IN

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS WHICH THE
UNITED STATES SUPPORTS.

-- WE ARE AWARE THAT SAG WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE
UNITED STATES TOTALLY DISSOCIATE ITS PROPOSAL TO SELL
F-15S TO SAUDI ARABIA FROM ANY PROPOSAL TO SELL AIRCRAFT
TO ISRAEL. WE FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO, HOWEVER, IN
LIGHT OF THE NEED TO CONSIDER THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF
THESE MAJOR AIRCRAFT SALES ON OUR GLOBAL ARMS TRANSFER
CEILING. WE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE
EFFECT WHICH THE PROPOSED SALES OF COSTLY AIRCRAFT TO
ISRAEL AND EGYPT AS WELL AS SAUDI ARABIA WOULD HAVE ON
OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER PRIORITY SALES REQUIRE-
MENTS WORLDWIDE.

-- ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON FOR CONSIDERING AT ONE TIME
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 038206

THE PROPOSED AIRCRAFT SALES TO ALL THREE COUNTRIES IS THAT THEY ARE WIDELY PERCEIVED AS BEING INTERRELATED AND AS HAVING RELEVANCE TO THE QUESTION OF SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ALSO, THE CONGRESS QUITE RIGHTLY WANTS TO KNOW TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THE TOTALITY OF WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AREA WHEN WE PROPOSE A MAJOR SALE TO ANY COUNTRY IN THE REGION. WE MUST ASK OUR SAUDI FRIENDS TO LET US BE THE JUDGE OF HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH THESE SALES IN OUR OWN POLITICAL PROCESS.

-- WITH REGARD TO THE ABOVE POINT, AS SAG IS AWARE, WE ANTICIPATE SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED SALE OF F-15S TO SAUDI ARABIA AS CONSTITUTING A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL. WE WILL OF COURSE BE EMPHASIZING SAUDI ARABIA'S CONCERN OVER THE NEED TO PROVIDE FOR A REASONABLE AIR DEFENSE OF ITS OWN TERRITORY. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE DEFENSIVE NATURE OF THE PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT OF F-15S TO SAUDI ARABIA BE STRESSED AS WELL ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS BY THE SAG.

-- AS THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL NOTE, CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OF THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION WILL BE SIGNED OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. IN THE CAUSE OF SAUDI ARABIA, WE ANTICIPATE SEPARATE LETTERS OF OFFER AND AGREEMENT (LOAS) COVERING 20 AIRFRAMES EACH IN FY 78, FY 79 AND FY 80- THE PURPOSE OF SEPARATING THE LOAS OUT OVER MORE THAN THE CURRENT YEAR IS TO ENABLE THE ADMINISTRATION TO MANAGE THE OVERALL ARMS TRANSFER CEILING IN SUCH A WAY AS TO LEAVE ROOM FOR OTHER MAJOR PRIORITY SALES. THIS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT AFFECT THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR DELIVERY OF THE F-15S TO SAUDI ARABIA. WE CURRENTLY ANTICIPATE THAT THE FIRST PLANES WILL COME OFF THE PRODUCTION LINE IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1981 AND THAT DELIVERIES WILL CONTINUE

THEY ARE COMPLETED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1984.

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 038206

-- AS THE PRESIDENT HAS STATED BEFORE, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT THE F-15 SALE GOES THROUGH. WE WILL NEED THE BEST SUPPORTIVE EFFORT OF ALL OUR FRIENDS, AND OF SAUDI ARABIA ITSELF, WHILE THE PROPOSAL IS BEFORE THE CONGRESS.

-- WE HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR WEST TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO HELP US IN OUR EFFORTS IN THE

CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER.

-- WITH RESPECT TO THE SALE TO ISRAEL, THIS IS IN PART IN
FULFILLMENT OF A COMMITMENT MADE OVER TWO YEARS AGO TO
PROVIDE F-16S TO ISRAEL. IT FALLS SHORT OF ISRAEL'S
REQUEST, BUT WE FELT FURTHER DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THIS
LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT COULD ONLY DIVERT ATTENTION FROM
AND UNDERMINE THE MAJOR EFFORT AHEAD IN THE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE SAG'
REFRAINING FROM ANY PUBLIC COMMENT PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT HERE. VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 02 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE038206
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:SSOBER:TH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802117/baaabedq.tel
Line Count: 287
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 7ed321cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3467857
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON AIRCRAFT SALES
TAGS: MASS, EG, IS, SA
To: JIDDA NIACT RIYADH NIACT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7ed321cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014